

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention and has also objected to the specification. Applicants have amended the title accordingly to more specifically identify the claimed invention.

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 12 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,439,897 to Ikeya. This rejection is respectfully traversed, with Applicants noting that Ikeya is in fact a 102(e) type reference, as its date of issuance (August 27, 2002) is after the effective U.S. filing date of the present application (August 20, 2002; the filing date of International Application No. PCT/JP02/08378 from which the present application claims continuation status).

As noted in the previous amendment filed on April 13, 2006, claims 1 and 12 recite the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pages 38 – 40 in which an insert 16 comprising a supporting portion 163 for supporting an external terminal face 23 of an area array type electronic component 2 so that external terminals 22 of the area array type electronic component 2 are exposed to a direction of connection terminals 44 of a socket 40.

As now recited in claim 1, the insert is attachable to an insert magazine of a tray for holding an area array type electronic component to be tested and includes a supporting portion for supporting an external terminal face of the area array type electronic component to orient and expose external terminals of the area array type electronic component in a direction facing connection terminals of a socket. See, for example, page 27, lines 13-23, page 35, lines 7-17 and page 36, lines 3-18 for support.

As now recited in claim 12, the component testing method includes inserting the area array type electronic component into a testing tray and supporting an external terminal face of the area array type electronic component by a rim of an opening portion of a plate member located on the testing tray and having the opening portion.

As noted previously, Ikeya also discloses an apparatus for mounting electronic packages. This apparatus includes a socket 1 having a base 10 forming a recess. The apparatus also includes a support portion 13. However, the support portion is not an insert, and is not included in an insert, that is attached to a test tray.

Therefore, in view of the above noted lack of teaching in Ikeya, the rejection of claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 11, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeya. Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 8 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 1.

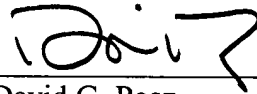
The Examiner should further note that new claims 13-16 have been added. New claims 13, 14 and 16 recite the feature that the testing tray includes a plurality of inserts each capable of holding an array type electronic component to be tested. See, for example, FIG. 6 and corresponding portions of the specification for support. Ikeya neither teaches nor suggests such a feature.

New claim 15 claims an electronic component handler and recites features generally as recited separately in claims 1 and 10. Support can be found for new claim 15 throughout the specification and drawings.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Posz', is written over a horizontal line.

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